

contacting the defined sample volume of water with a non-ammonia alkaline agent to raise the pH to at least 10; [and]

simultaneously contacting said sample volume of water with [a] an indicator pad comprising a [film-like] porous hydrophobic barrier membrane having a front side and an opposite side and capable of allowing ammonia to pass through from said front side to said opposite side of said membrane;

said membrane being coated with an excess of a pH chromogenic indicator mixture which responsively changes color upon contact with ammonia, [;] and said membrane being impregnated with ethyl cellulose, a surfactant, and tertiary octyl phenol;

observing the indicator color response on the opposite side of said membrane; and thereafter,

comparing the observed intensity of the color response with a standard color chart to determine [the] ammonia concentration of said water sample.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the excess pH chromogenic indicator mixture, in addition to being incorporated in the membrane, comprises a thin layer thereof on at least the opposite side of the membrane.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the excess pH chromogenic indicator mixture, in addition to being incorporated in the membrane, [comprise] comprises thin layers thereof on both the front and opposite sides of the membrane.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the non-ammonia alkaline agent [in the reagent] comprises an alkalizing pad and the alkalizing pad and porous hydrophobic barrier membrane are affixed to a clear semi-rigid handle.

a3 7. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the porous hydrophobic barrier membrane is an inert [porous] polypropylene matrix.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the indicator mixture is [membrane is coated with] a mixed indicator which is both responsive and discriminating in degrees of intensity to increasing levels of ammonia concentration.

a4 11. (Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the mixed indicator [is a mixture] comprises of bromophenol blue, bromocresol green, sodium salt and bromocresol purple, [with total indicator undergoing] and undergoes a color change from yellow to green at differing pH levels.

Please add the following claims:

sub 17 14. A test device for detecting ammonia production potential of aqueous systems comprising:
a test strip comprising a clear semi-rigid material,
an alkalizing pad adhered to the test strip, the alkalizing pad comprising a non-ammonia alkaline agent sufficient to raise the pH of a confined test sample to at least 10; and
an indicator pad adhered to the test strip, the indicator pad comprising a porous hydrophobic barrier membrane that allows ammonia gas to pass through, the porous hydrophobic barrier membrane having a front side for contacting the test sample and an opposite side coated with a pH chromogenic mixture which responsively changes color in response to the amount of ammonia gas in the aqueous system, the opposite side protected from contact with the test sample by the clear semi-rigid material,

sub B7 wherein color changes of the pH chromogenic mixture on the opposite side of the membrane may be viewed through the clear semi-rigid material.

15. A method of detecting ammonia in aqueous systems comprising:
obtaining a defined sample volume of the water to be tested;
contacting the defined sample volume of water with a non-ammonia alkaline agent to raise the pH to at least 10; and
simultaneously contacting the sample volume of water with an indicator pad comprising a porous hydrophobic barrier membrane having a front side in contact with the sample and an opposite side sequestered from contact with the water, the porous hydrophobic barrier membrane capable of allowing ammonia to pass through from the front side to the opposite side of the membrane and the membrane being coated with a pH chromogenic indicator mixture that responsively changes color upon contact with ammonia.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of
observing a color response on the opposite side of said membrane; and
comparing the observed intensity of the color response with a standard color chart to determine ammonia concentration of said water sample.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the opposite side is sequestered from contact with the water by being affixed to a clear semi-rigid handle.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein an alkalizing pad affixed to the handle comprises the non-ammonia alkaline agent